

AUGUST 2004

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BLOOMINGTON'S RICH PAST

HISTORY FESTIVAL NEEDS YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR RIVER Rendezvous, a living history festival that depicts life in Minnesota in the 1800s. Opportunities include:

- Tour guides for school children, Monday - Friday, September 13 - 17, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Historic re-enactors.
- Organizers and people to set up.

To volunteer, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877. For more information, see page 7.



OUR BUSY LIVES

RESTORING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

TRI-CITY PARTNERS presents a free parenting forum on handling over-scheduled, hyperactive and under-

connected lives. The presentation, featuring Barbara Carlson, co-founder of Putting Family First initiative, focuses on how to restore important family connections including family meals, vacations and all of the little things that matter.

The forum, "We live in the minivan – I might as well decorate," will be held on Thursday, September 30, from 7 - 9 p.m. at Richfield Middle School, 7461 Oliver Avenue South. Tri-City Partners works to promote health, reduce risks, and build assets for our youth and communities. For more information, call 952-563-8901 or visit www.tricitypartners.org.

COUNCIL APPROVES BROADENED SMOKING BAN

NEW ORDINANCE IN BLOOMINGTON

IN JULY, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED AN ordinance that expands smoke-free areas originally established by the 1975 Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act. The new ordinance prohibits smoking in indoor public places and workplaces by deleting certain exemptions of the Clean Indoor Air Act. Smoking in private residences, motor vehicles, designated hotel-motel sleeping rooms, and during Indian spiritual and cultural ceremonies is allowed under state law and is not affected by the City's ordinance.

The Council took public comment for more than four hours before voting 6 - 1 to approve the smoking ban. They also approved a resolution requesting that Hennepin County adopt a countywide smoking ban.

The ordinance prohibits smoking in indoor public places and workplaces, within 25 feet of entrances, exits, open windows and ventilation intakes to public places and workplaces, and requires that at least one-half of the seating capacity of outdoor restaurant patios be designated as non-smoking areas. The deadline for compliance with the ordinance for most public places and workplaces is September 1, 2004. For establishments that have on-sale liquor, wine or 3.2 beer licenses, or charitable gambling licenses or permits, the deadline for compliance with the ordinance is March 31, 2005.

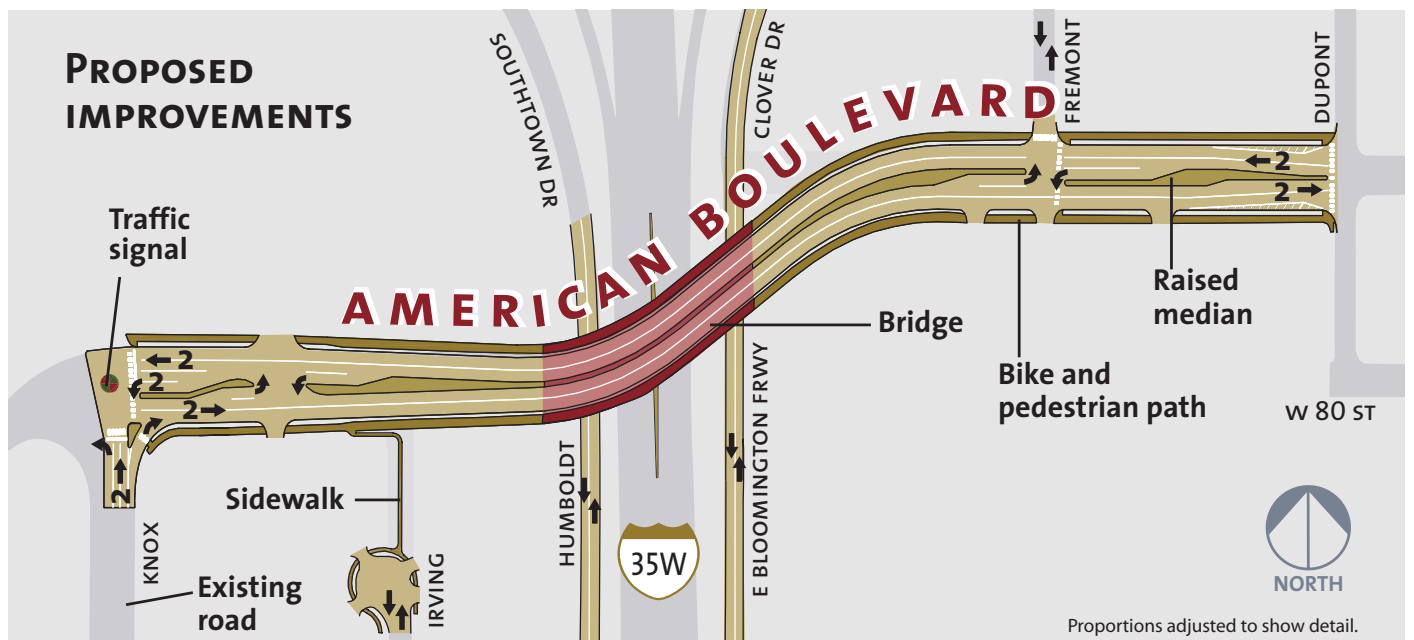
Smoking-ban proposals are being considered in other metropolitan cities as well as Hennepin, Ramsey and

Dakota counties. Minneapolis approved a smoking ban in July. In addition to supporting a statewide legislative ban and passing a resolution for a countywide ban, the Council expressed a commitment to revisit the ordinance should other cities adopt ordinances or fail to take any action that would put Bloomington businesses at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding communities.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Smoking ordinance, or call Karen Zeleznak at 952-563-8900.

BRIDGING THE GAP

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON BRIDGE OVER I-35W



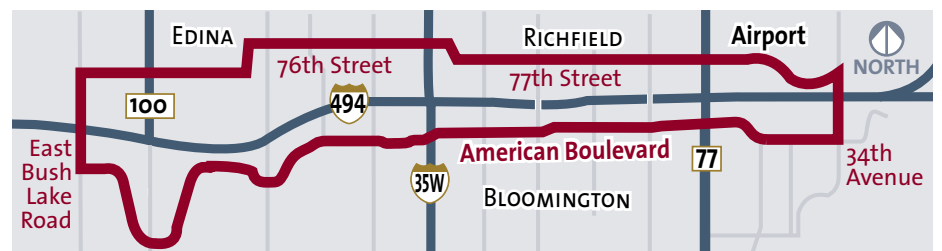
AN IMPORTANT LINK FOR AMERICAN Boulevard began in August with construction of a bridge over I-35W at 79th and 80th streets. The bridge includes two westbound and two eastbound lanes, a concrete median, and

eight-foot wide bike and pedestrian paths in each direction. Improvements beyond the bridge will include two lanes in each direction, concrete medians with protected left turn lanes, and eight-foot pedestrian paths on both sides.

A federal grant funds 80 percent of construction. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation also support the project. The bridge is scheduled for completion in fall 2005.

AMERICAN BOULEVARD

Paralleling I-494 from East Bush Lake Road to 34th Avenue, American Boulevard follows previously named Green Valley Drive, Norman Center Drive, Bridge Road and 79th and 80th streets. *See right.* The route will provide Bloomington residents with an alternative way to travel across the community and also help ease congestion on I-494. American Boulevard between Fremont and Nicollet avenues is scheduled for improvement in spring 2005. Reconstruction and widening of the boulevard will be 60 percent complete when the bridge over I-35W opens in fall 2005.



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